THE EIGHTH DAY.

26th February 1918.

The Assembly met at 11-50 A. M. on Tuesday, the 26th February 1918.

VII. EDUCATION.—*(Continued).*

120. Preservation of the genius of the Tamil language in the State.

Mr. P. V. Daniel B. A. & B. L., (Member, Nominated) said that the Tamil population of the State formed one-fourth of the Malayalam-speaking people. Under the existing arrangements, the Tamil schools were naturally suffering. The Member, therefore, prayed that,—

(1) the required number of Tamil schools be opened in Tamil centres ;

(2) teachers, whose Vernacular was Tamil and who had their training in Tamil Training Schools, be appointed in Tamil schools,

(3) not less than two Tamil Assistant Inspectors be appointed, out of the 20 Assistant Inspectors ; and

(4) Tamil be made the Court language in the Taluks of Tovala, Agastiswaram, Shencottah and Eraniel.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

121. Advancement of Tamil education.

Mr. S. Ganapathi Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) proposed the following measures:—

(1) Tamil Boys' and Girls' schools (Lower and Higher Grade) should be opened in all the Tamil taluks and in important Tamil centres of the State.

(2) The existing Malayalam schools in Tamil centres should be gradually converted into Tamil schools, provision being made for Malayalam students for the study of Malayalam.

(3) In schools in the Malayalam taluks facilities should be given to Tamil students for studying Tamil.

(4) Teachers trained in the Tamil Training Schools with Tamil as their Vernacular should be appointed in Tamil schools.

(5) A Committee of Tamil scholars should be appointed for preparing the curricula to be introduced in Tamil schools.

(6) The Tamil Examining Board should be strengthened by the inclusion of competent Tamil scholars.

(7) The Text-book Committee should also be strengthened likewise.

(8) At least two Tamil Assistant Inspectors should be appointed to supervise the Tamil instruction in Tamil schools.

(9) Tamil School Leaving Certificate holders should be treated on a par with the Malayalam School Leaving Certificate holders in respect of Government service.

(10) All Proceedings of Government and other important papers, including the list of Assembly subjects, useful to the Tamil population, should be published in Tamil also. The Member then pointed out some inaccuracies in the Tamil translations.

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published in the Gazette and urged the necessity for appointing a proper Tamil Translator to Government.

(11) In Tamil taluks the official language should be Tamil and, as far as possible, Tamil-knowing officers alone should be appointed.

(12) The Public Library should be supplied with all standard Tamil works.

In conclusion, the Member added that some of the suggestions made above formed the subject matter of resolutions passed at a Conference of Tamilians under the presidency of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction and communicated to Government.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the number of Tamil schools, I may state what has been done within recent years as a result of the representations made at the tenth session of the Assembly. There are 8 Departmental Boys' schools and 23 Private schools in which Tamil is the principal language, in the Tovala taluk. Besides these, there are, in the same taluk, 3 Departmental Girls' schools and 3 Private Girls' schools. Similarly, in the Agastiswaram Taluk, there are 11 Departmental schools and 56 Private schools, the corresponding numbers of Girls' schools being 5 and 9. In the Shencottah taluk, there are 5 Departmental schools and 6 Private schools, and 2 Departmental Girls' schools. In addition to these, Tamil Pandits have been appointed in the Higher Grade English schools at Kottar and Trivandrum, in the Model School, Trivandrum and also in the Lower Grade English schools at Bhutapandy, Martandam and Shencottah. There are also as many as 20 Vernacular schools in the above said three taluks where Tamil is taught as the optional language.

The other suggestions will receive careful consideration.

122. Improvement of female education.

Mr. P. V. Daniel B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) advocated the advancement of female education on the following lines:—

(1) The girls should have a fair knowledge of English and their Vernacular.

(2) They must have some little knowledge of History, Geography and Arithmetic.

(3) They must be taught Domestic Economy.

(4) They should be given a simple scientific education. They must know the laws of sanitation and hygiene and learn the value of simple medicines and foodstuffs. They must also be taught First Aid.

(5) They must be taught cooking, lace work or embroidery work, sewing, &c., and the fine arts. They should also be taught gentle forms of physical exercise suitable to their constitution.

Dewan's reply:—This subject is engaging the attention of Government. When the Director of Public Instruction submits his proposals, the Member's suggestions will also be considered.

123. Improvements to be effected in the education of Mahomedans.

Mr. Gnaniyar Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated). In his memorandum, which the Member had handed over, he stated that most of the Mussalmans were sending their children to pial schools owing to want of proper instruction in the Arabic language in Government schools. The result was that the children did not know Tamil or Malayalam well. The remedy suggested by the Member was that Arabic teachers should be appointed in all Government schools and that a few Arabic Inspectors also should be entertained.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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